

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

### LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A tire vulcanizing mold comprising an inner peripheral shape corresponding to the surface of a tire tread portion, and configured by assembling a plurality of circumferentially segmented pieces, wherein at least one of said plurality of segmented pieces has a generally round-bar-shaped pin protectors on an assembling face between an adjoining segmented piece in a projecting manner therefrom, and said adjoining segmented piece has a first radial depressed grooves of generally arcuate in cross section to be fitted with said pin protectors on an assembling face between said segmented pieces to be assembled, and at least one of the segmented pieces has second radial depressed grooves of generally arcuate in cross section provided plurally in an axial direction for fixing the pin protectors.

#### **2. (cancelled)**

3. (currently amended): The tire vulcanizing mold according to claim 1 ~~2~~, wherein said second depressed groove provided in said at least one segmented piece and said first depressed groove provided in said adjoining segmented piece have generally the same diameter.

4. (currently amended): The tire vulcanizing mold according to any one of claims 1 and ~~to~~ 3, wherein said at least one segmented piece is detachably fitted with said pin protector on said assembling face.

5. (original): A method for producing a tire vulcanizing mold, wherein comprising the steps of: forming a generally cylindrical member having an inner peripheral shape corresponding to the surface of a tire tread portion; boring a radially penetrating, generally round hole in the generally cylindrical member on at least one of a plurality of predetermined segmenting faces along the circumference of said generally cylindrical member; segmenting said generally cylindrical member into a plurality of segmented pieces by cutting it at said plurality of predetermined segmenting faces including the one on which said generally round hole is bored; fitting and fixing a generally round-bar-shaped pin protector to a depressed groove of generally arcuate in cross section in one segmented piece of the two depressed grooves of generally arcuate in cross section, which are formed in two corresponding segmented pieces by said

generally round hole being segmented by the above cutting; and assembling the two segmented pieces together by fitting the pin protector to the depressed groove in the other segmented piece of the two depressed grooves of generally arcuate in cross section, which are formed in two corresponding segmented pieces.

6. (original): The method for producing the tire vulcanizing mold according to claim 5, wherein the dimensions of a gap between assembling faces, which is left in assembling said two segmented pieces, is adjusted by adjusting a difference in diameter between said depressed groove in one segmented piece and said pin protector.